

## Message Text

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15  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 020745Z NOV 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5479

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 30132

FOR EA/TB/VLC

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, CB, US  
SUBJ: AMERICAN CITIZEN BRUCE BARNEY LEAVES CAMBODIA OCT 27

REF: BANGKOK 29928

1. REFTEL REPORTS RETURN OF AMERICAN CITIZEN, BRUCE BARNEY FROM CAMBODIA ON OCT 27. SINCE MESSAGE WAS HANDLED AS CONSULAR PROTECTION AND WELFARE CASE, EMBASSY IS NOT RPT NOT CERTAIN IT WAS CIRCULATED TO EA. FSO CHARLES H TWINING AND DIRECTOR OF BUREAU OF SECURITY AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS, LEONARD F. WALENTYNOWICZ, WERE ON VISIT TO ARNAYAPRATHET OCT 28 AND TRANSPORTED BARNEY BACK TO BANGKOK SAME DAY, WHERE HE IS RECEIVING MEDICAL ATTENTION. BARNEY'S FAMILY HAS BEEN NOTIFIED, AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIS REPATRIATION TO U.S. ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED SHORTLY.

2. SO FAR, THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO INDICATION THAT INTERNATIONAL PRESS IN BANGKOK IS AWARE OF BARNEY'S PRESENCE IN HOSPITAL, AND, GIVEN HIS WEAKENED PHYSICAL CONDITION, EMBASSY HAS SOUGHT TO ENSURE HIS PRIVACY, SO FAR WITH SUCCESS.

3. FSO TWINING HAS PREPARED DETAILED ACCOUNT OF DEBRIEFING OF BARNEY, WHICH IS BEING FORWARDED BY AIRGRAM. IN SHORT, BARNEY IS CONSIDERABLY DISILLUSIONED WITH HIS MONTH-LONG EXPERIENCE WITH THE CAMBODIAN RESISTANCE, WHICH HE FOUND CONFIDENTIAL

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TO BE DISORGANIZED, COMPARATIVELY INACTIVE, AND WITHOUT

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT OR MEDICAL SUPPLIES. BARNEY LEARNED OF SOME FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CAMBODIAN RESISTANCE COMING FROM IN TAM FACTION OF THE OVERSEAS KHMER ASSOCIATION IN FRANCE, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT THE FUNDS WERE BEING DIVERTED INTO THE LEADER'S POCKET. THERE WERE ALSO INDICATIONS OF ROYAL THAI ARMY SUPPORT FOR THE CAMBODIAN RESISTANCE, IN THE FORM OF OLD M-1 AND M-2 CABINES AND SOME AMMUNITION.

4. BARNEY SAID HE LEFT CAMBODIA VERY SAD, REALIZING THAT THE CAMBODIAN RESISTANCE HAS NO RPT NO CHANCE TO RETAKE THE COUNTRY. WITH EXCEPTION OF ONE HONEST AND WELL-MOTIVATED LEADER, REST OF LEADERSHIP IS POOR AND CORRUPT, USING MEN WITH LITTLE OR NO MILITARY TRAINING. BARNEY SAID HE ENCOURAGED THE CAMBODIANS TO RETURN TO THE REFUGEE CAMP IN THAILAND, FROM WHICH MANY OF THEM HAD COME, AND TRY TO START A NEW LIFE THERE. BARNEY VOWED NEVER TO RETURN TO THE CAMBODIAN RESISTANCE AND IS CONSIDERING ENTERING A SEMINARY INSTEAD.

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